

Appl. No. 10/603,237
Amtd. dated August 11, 2006
Reply to Office action of May 16, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 6, 7, 17, and 20 remain in this application. Claims 1-5, 8-16, 18, and 19 have been canceled.

Claim 1, as amended, overcomes the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection because it has been amended to include the invention having a joystick switch connected to the servo for actuating the servo through angular changes, wherein the angular changes are left, right, up, and down with respect to the lawnmower deck. Support for the amendment to specify that the angular changes are left, right, up, and down with respect the lawnmower deck is found in the Specification at p. 6, lines 27-30, p. 7, lines 25-27 and 30, and in Figs. 1 and 4. The cited and relied upon Kerr, Sr. (6,966,168) and Meehleder (5,040,360) makes no provision for left and right angular changes to the line trimmer. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully objects to Examiner's contention that Skovhoj (4,663,920) discloses a joystick switch. First, Skovhoj is a completely manual system comprising a lever with a ratchet mechanism and a Bowden wire. Unlike the joystick switch of the current invention, the control lever of Skovhoj cannot cause left and right angular movements of the line trimmer. Furthermore, considerable physical effort is required to manipulate the lever and ratchet mechanism of Skovhoj that is not required by the joystick switch of the current invention. Finally, the Bowden wire of Skovhoj is vulnerable to breakage and to its housings becoming sufficiently fouled with dirt and debris that excessive friction develops, rendering the lever and ratchet mechanism unusable. The current invention employs a joystick switch that both overcomes the drawbacks of Skovhoj and adds new functionality not present in the prior art. The dependent claim 7 adds additional novel features to the independent claims recited above and thus is submitted to be a-fortiori, patentable.

Claim 17, as amended, overcomes the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection because it has been amended to include the invention having a joystick switch connected to the servo for actuating the servo through angular changes, wherein the angular changes are left,

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right, up, and down with respect to the lawnmower deck. Support for the amendment to specify that the angular changes are left, right, up, and down with respect the lawnmower deck is found in the Specification at p. 6, lines 27-30, p. 7, lines 25-27 and 30, and in Figs. 1 and 4. The cited and relied upon Kerr, Sr. (6,966,168) and Meehleder (5,040,360) makes no provision for left and right angular changes to the line trimmer. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully objects to Examiner's contention that Skovhoj (4,663,920) discloses a joystick switch. First, Skovhoj is a completely manual system comprising a lever with a ratchet mechanism and a Bowden wire. Unlike the joystick switch of the current invention, the control lever of Skovhoj cannot cause left and right angular movements of the line trimmer. Furthermore, considerable physical effort is required to manipulate the lever and ratchet mechanism of Skovhoj that is not required by the joystick switch of the current invention. Finally, the Bowden wire of Skovhoj is vulnerable to breakage and to its housings becoming sufficiently fouled with dirt and debris that excessive friction develops, rendering the lever and ratchet mechanism unusable. The current invention employs a joystick switch that both overcomes the drawbacks of Skovhoj and adds new functionality not present in the prior art.

Claim 20, as amended, overcomes the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection because it has been amended to include the invention having a joystick switch connected to the servo for actuating the servo through angular changes, wherein the angular changes are left, right, up, and down with respect to the lawnmower deck. Support for the amendment to specify that the angular changes are left, right, up, and down with respect the lawnmower deck is found in the Specification at p. 6, lines 27-30, p. 7, lines 25-27 and 30, and in Figs. 1 and 4. The cited and relied upon Kerr, Sr. (6,966,168) and Meehleder (5,040,360) makes no provision for left and right angular changes to the line trimmer. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully objects to Examiner's contention that Skovhoj (4,663,920) discloses a joystick switch. First, Skovhoj is a completely manual system comprising a lever with a ratchet mechanism and a Bowden wire. Unlike the joystick switch of the current invention, the control lever of Skovhoj cannot cause left and right angular movements of the line trimmer. Furthermore, considerable physical effort is required to

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manipulate the lever and ratchet mechanism of Skovhoj that is not required by the joystick switch of the current invention. Finally, the Bowden wire of Skovhoj is vulnerable to breakage and to its housings becoming sufficiently fouled with dirt and debris that excessive friction develops, rendering the lever and ratchet mechanism unusable. The current invention employs a joystick switch that both overcomes the drawbacks of Skovhoj and adds new functionality not present in the prior art.

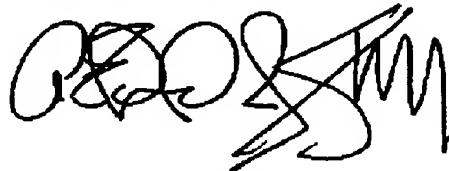
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that:

Claims 6, 7, 17, and 20, as amended, recite distinctions that are of patentable merit under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for the independent claims and thus for each dependent claim as well. Specifically, a joystick switch connected to the servo for actuating the servo through angular changes, wherein the angular changes are left, right, up, and down with respect to the lawnmower deck was unsuggested among the prior art references.

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Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



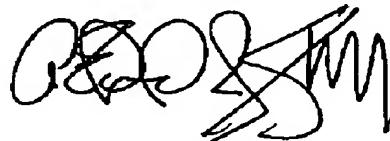
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Date: August 11, 2006

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by fax to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 571-273-8300 on the date shown below.

Anthony Edw. J Campbell



Friday, August 11, 2006